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### ***Kernan Announces \$95,200 in Grants to Train 515 Workers at Four Central Indiana Companies***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that four central Indiana companies have been awarded a total of \$95,200 in training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund. A total of 515 new and incumbent Hoosier workers will benefit from the training.

"Whenever a company invests in itself – be it through employee training or in upgrading equipment – it has positive results for everyone involved. Workers not only gain new skills, the business becomes more efficient and productive. The end result is a better product," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "That's why we are always so pleased to aid companies like these in their training efforts."

- **CIM Systems, Inc.**, Noblesville, has been awarded a \$2,700 grant to offer training to workers in three new jobs and to retrain six incumbent employees as part of an \$83,000 investment in building and equipment upgrades. CIM Systems, Inc. was established in 1989 as a cell control services company providing programming and related services to manufacturers; robotics is now the core of their business. The company will use the grant to instruct employees in robotics, forklift training, lean manufacturing, welding, CNC and team building.
- **Indiana Ductile**, Noblesville, has been awarded an \$8,500 grant to train 20 new employees and retrain 68 existing associates following a company investment of \$1 million in equipment. Founded as Noblesville Casting to produce sanitary castings, Indiana Ductile's current focus is on castings produced on DISAmatic Molding Machines and narrow grade iron. Following the purchase of new equipment, the company will use the grant to train employees in English as a second language and quality management techniques.

- **Marsh Supermarkets**, Indianapolis, has been awarded a \$55,000 grant to provide training for 321 existing workers following the company's \$2.42 million investment in building upgrades and equipment. Marsh was founded in 1931 in Muncie and expanded to 16 stores by 1953. Today, they are the leading regional food retailer headquartered in Indianapolis, operating 67 Marsh stores throughout Indiana and Ohio. As a result of the grant, employees will receive forklift operation, computers and manufacturing software training.
- **Pridgeon & Clay, Inc.**, Franklin, has been awarded a \$29,000 grant to provide training for 36 new and 61 existing jobs in conjunction with the company's \$3.05 million investment in building and equipment upgrades. Founded in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1948, the company opened a facility in Franklin in 1988 with an adjoining distribution center. They are one of the largest independent value-added manufacturers and suppliers of stamped and fine-blanked components for the automotive industry. Employees will improve their skills through training in machine operation, manufacturing principles, robotic welding, general welding, electrical, quality systems and TS 16949, an automotive quality system.

The Commerce department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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